

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE FY04 EQIP RANKING CRITERIA OLYMPIC PENINSULA LOCAL WORK GROUP

LOCAL WORK GROUP (LWG) – PRIORITY SETTING

The Olympic Peninsula Local Work Group has taken the following actions:

- 1) A maximum point value has been assigned for each “Resource” and “Additional” Consideration. The weight of each category was based on the priorities determined through the locally led process.
- 2) Local modifiers were established for each consideration. This allowed the LWG to localize the ranking criteria by including modifiers that were not addressed in the state template.
- 3) Points were assigned for each modifier.

Ranking the applicants – Using the Worksheet

Important – Before granting points to an applicant for any item:

- 1) The modifier must apply to the area to be treated under the application.
- 2) The application must contain a conservation practice eligible for EQIP cost share or incentive payment that will address each modifier for which points are being awarded.

SOIL RESOURCE CONSIDERATION (Maximum: 50 Points)

“Streambank stabilization” (50 Points)

Grant points if there are streambank areas within pasture or cropland that need to be stabilized to halt excessive bank erosion and sediment loading are being treated by installation of practice 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection. Also allow points for practices (treatment) that facilitate the regulation/exclusion of domestic livestock from streambank areas that are actively eroding.

“Groundcover type” (0 to 15 points)

Points are assigned according to the groundcover type.

Cropland w/o cover crop	0 pts
Cropland with cover crop	5 pts
Pasture	10 pts
Forest	15 pts

“Streambank stabilization on all eligible lands” (10 Points)

Grant points if there are stream bank areas within all eligible lands (pasture, cropland or forest) that need to be stabilized to halt excessive bank erosion and sediment loading are being treated by installation of practice 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection. Also allow points for practices (treatment) that facilitate the regulation/exclusion of domestic livestock from streambank areas that are actively eroding. Award points only for eligible lands other than pasture or cropland (i.e. Forest). Do not award points for both ranking criteria “Streambank Stabilization” and “Streambank Stabilization on all eligible lands”.

WATER RESOURCE CONSIDERATION (Maximum: 550 Points)

“Heavy use areas need stabilization” (100 Points)

Grant points if there is a need to stabilize small areas of short-term livestock containment to improve water quality and/or quantity. Evaluation may be based on soil interpretations, case file information, and applicant interview. The conservation practice “Heavy Use Area Protection” will be included in the application.

“Livestock have uncontrolled access to riparian areas” (0 or 100 Points)

Grant points if there are riparian areas that are not fenced and there is sufficient indication that grazing of domestic animals occur within these areas. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, case file information, and applicant interview. LWG has assigned points based on proposed treatment.

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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| a. Riparian area will be fenced | 100 pts |
| b. Prescribed Grazing w/o fencing | 0 pts |
| c. (a or b) + riparian forest buffer | 0 pts |

“Nitrogen equivalent units per acre” (0 to 50 Points)

Livestock operations with higher livestock densities have greater potential to adversely affect ground or surface water due to excessive nutrients. Grant points based on nitrogen equivalent units per acre (NEU). Use the NEU table developed by the Olympic Peninsula LWG (Kitsap CD).

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|---------------|--------|
| 0.0 – 1.0 NEU | 0 pts |
| 1.1 – 1.5 NEU | 10 pts |
| 1.6 – 2.0 NEU | 25 pts |
| 2.1 – 2.5 NEU | 40 pts |
| > 2.5 NEU | 50 pts |

“Proposed Contract Area is within a sensitive shellfish area” (60 Points)

Grant points if proposed contract area is within a watershed draining to shellfish beds that Washington State Department of Health’s Growing Area Classification Program has closed, downgraded or listed as threatened in the most recent Annual Inventory of Commercial and Recreational Shellfish Areas of Washington State.

(<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/Pubs/2002AnnualInventory.pdf>)

“Proposed contract area is adjacent to a 303(d) listed stream or drains into it via a defined tributary” (0 to 100 Points)

Grant points if the application has a 303(d) listed stream running through it, or is adjacent to such a stream, and the proposed treatment will address one or more identified water quality concerns of that listed stream. The 1998 list of 303(d) streams can be found at the following website:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/1998/wrias/1998_water_segs.pdf

If the application area is not adjacent to a listed stream, grant points if it is upstream and adjacent to a tributary (perennial or intermittent) of that stream as identified on a USGS quadrangle map, and the proposed treatment will address one or more identified water quality concerns of the listed stream. In these instances, the LWG has assigned different points based on proximity to the listed stream.

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|-------------------------------|---------|
| Adjacent to stream segment | 100 pts |
| Upstream distance < ¼ mile | 75 pts |
| Upstream distance ¼ to ½ mile | 50 pts |
| Upstream distance ½ to ¾ mile | 25 pts |
| Upstream distance ¾ to 1 mile | 10 pts |
| Upstream distance > 1 mile | 0 pts |

“Distance to surface water” (0 to 15 points)

Grant points according to the up stream distance to surface water, defined as a solid or dashed blue line on USGS quadrangle map.

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|-----------------------|--------|
| Greater than 300 feet | 0 pts |
| 101 to 301 feet | 9 pts |
| 10 to 100 feet | 10 pts |
| Less than 10 feet | 15 pts |

“A CNMP will be included (livestock operations)” (25 Points)

Grant points if the application is a livestock operation with lands where animal manure is applied, and will include the development and implementation of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan that meets NRCS criteria. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview.

“Pest management will be included for crop or pasture” (100 Points)

Grant points if the application includes crop or pasture where pest control is needed to reduce adverse effects on ground and/or surface water by including the development and implementation of the Pest Management practice. Evaluation may be based on soil interpretations, case file information related to pesticide risk analysis, and applicant interview.

“Storage is needed for animal manure” (100 Points)

Grant points if a waste storage facility is needed and included in the application. Evaluation may be based on applicant interview, livestock numbers, and current storage capability.

“Forest access roads deliver sediment to salmonid-bearing streams” (0 to 100 Points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that forest (private, non-industrial) access roads are delivering sediment directly or indirectly to salmonid-bearing streams. Evaluation may be based on the applicant’s Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan, aerial photography, topographic maps, and applicant interview. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) definition for stream Types 1, 2, or 3 shall be the basis for determining if the stream is salmonid bearing. Use either DNR Typing Maps or fish presence maps developed locally through the Limiting Factors Analysis. LWG has assigned points based on proximity.

Road adjacent to or crossing stream	100 pts
Road within 1/8 mile of stream	80 pts
Road within ¼ mile of stream	60 pts
Road within ½ mile of stream	40 pts
Road more than ½ mile of stream	0 pts

"Irrigation System will be improved & or IWM will be applied" (50 Points)

Points will be awarded if the current irrigation system will be improved and irrigation water management will be applied; or if irrigation water management will be applied. This includes replacing an open delivery system with pipeline, replacing a leaky delivery pipeline, converting from wheel lines to a center pivot system, & converting from overhead sprinklers to a micro system.

Irrigation Water Management is defined as the process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation in a planned, efficient manner. The purposes of IWM include managing soil moisture to promote desired crop response; optimizing use of available water supplies; decreasing non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources; and to minimize irrigation induced soil erosion. It includes the use of devices such as tensiometers, watermarks, or neutron probes to determine moisture levels in the soil.

PLANT RESOURCE CONSIDERATION (Maximum: 100 Points)

“Water Development is a factor for proper grazing distribution” (25 Points)

Grant points if there is sufficient indication that lack of adequate water quantity or availability are limiting factors for achieving proper grazing distribution. Evaluation may be based on aerial photos, case file information, the National Range and Pasture Handbook, and applicant interview.

“Riparian Buffer area benefited” (5 to 50 points)

Assign points by entering the length and acreage of the buffer. This will assign **5** points for every 100 feet of length and **5** points for every tenth of an acre with a maximum of **50** points.

“Vegetative cover will be improved to solve resource problems” (25 Points)

Grant points if improving existing vegetative cover will help solve another resource problem related to soil, water, air, or animals or help to comply with laws/regulations. Improving vegetative cover does not include the reseeded of hay fields as a normal part of a crop rotation.

“Forest stand improvement will be applied” (50 Points)

Points will be awarded if the applicant agrees to apply forest stand improvement on the proposed contract acres. The definition of forest stand improvement is to manipulate species composition and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation. The purposes are: to improve understory forage production, aesthetics, wildlife & fish habitat, recreation, hydrologic conditions; to improve or sustain timber production; to initiate forest stand regeneration; or a combination of purposes. Documentation for this practice includes: the extent and size of the treatment area; spacing, density and numbers of preferred species and understory species; stocking rates in terms of basal area, spacing or trees per acre by species and size class distribution; and the method, felling direction and timing of tree cutting.

ANIMAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATION (Maximum: 200 Points)

“Proposed contract area is adjacent to a stream which supports listed salmonids.” (100 Points)

Grant points if the application has a stream which supports listed salmonids running through it, or is adjacent to such a stream as identified on the map (*Distribution of Federally-Listed Salmon, Trout, and Char on Private and Tribal Lands* dated September 2002).

“A practice will be implemented to benefit terrestrial species occupying the proposed contract area” (20 to 60 Points)

Grant points if the application includes one of the following conservation practices and provides direct wildlife benefit for terrestrial species that occupy the proposed contract area. The LWG may assign different points for this modifier based on the proposed practices to be implemented.

Riparian Forest Buffer	60 pts
Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.	20 pts
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.	40 pts
Restoration & Mgmt. of Rare and Declining Habitats	60 pts

“Increased fish access” (0 to 100 points)

Assign points if fish access is expected to increase as a result of the contract.

No increased fish access	0 pts
Fish access increased to less than ¼ mile of stream	25 pts
Fish access increased ¼ to ½ mile of stream	50 pts
Fish access increased ½ to 1 mile of stream	75 pts
Fish access increased to greater than 1 mile of stream	100 pts

“Habitat improvement of fish streams utilized by anadromous fish” (10 to 40 Points)

Points will be awarded if the applicant agrees to create, restore or enhance anadromous fish habitat in the contract area. The purposes are to: provide a source of detritus, large woody debris, suitable habitat, channel morphology and riparian characteristics important to desired aquatic species in streams utilized by anadromous fish. Award points for the distance of stream habitat improvement. The contract area that will be improved must be adjacent to stream types 1-4 as designated by the “CREP Maps”(Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) published by the Washington State Conservation Commission. If a “CREP Map” is not available then use the Limiting Factors Analysis Map for the designated WRIA (Watershed Resource Inventory Area).

< 50 feet	10 pts
50 – 100 feet	20 pts
100 – 500 feet	30 pts
> 500 feet	40 pts

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Maximum: 100 Points)

“Planned practices will assist the producer in complying with laws/regulations” (65 Points)

Grant points if the application includes practices that will assist the person in complying with the Dairy Waste Law, AFO/CAFO regulations, or the Forest Practices Act. In order to qualify for points, compliance must be enforceable by an agency with the ability to impose fines or sanctions for violation. Points may not be granted if the applicant is under a court order to carry out a plan. Nor can EQIP be used to assist applicant come into compliance in sodbusting or swampbusting situations. Evaluation may be based on case file information and applicant interview.

LWG may assign points based on regulation type.

Dairy Waste Law	65 pts
AFO/CAFO	65 pts
Forest Practices Act	65 pts

“Under regulatory or industry deadline of less than 2 years” (65 Points)

It is a higher priority to award points and dollars to those who are faced with legal action or industry sanctions if they do not perform those practices. Such as a dairy under DOE deadline to complete all practices by Dec. 31, 2003 or a landowner who will not get an industry contract if eligible conservation practices are not performed within a deadline.

“Applicant has previously installed and maintained BMP’s “ (0 to 10 Points)

Grant points based on applicant’s demonstrated willingness to install and maintain conservation practices.

Demonstrated willingness is based on past participation in officially recognized stewardship programs, including but not limited to NRCS conservation district conservation planning, dairy nutrient management planning, Irrigation Efficiencies Program, CREP, WRP, WHIP, DNR forest stewardship planning, RFEG or SRFB salmon recovery efforts, or conservation easement program.

Application enables full implementation of an existing plan (RMS Plan)	10 pts
Application builds on but does not fully implement existing plan	8 pts
Applicant has evidence of previous participation in salmon recovery or habitat. Improvement/protection programs (e.g. CREP, WRP, WHIP, RFEG, SRFB, conservation easements)	5 pts
Applicant has no evidence of previous stewardship activities	0 pts